



# GEORGIA COMMISSION ON THE HOLOCAUST

5920 Roswell Road, Suite A209 · Sandy Springs, GA · 30328  
[www.holocaust.georgia.gov](http://www.holocaust.georgia.gov)

## **Renee Brodes Kaplan Biography**

### **Educational Experience**

Thirty-four years of teaching in public schools in Florida, Tennessee, and Georgia ( 25 years in Cobb County)

Eight years as authorized representative of Regional Education Corps, United States Holocaust Memorial Museum {USHMM} (current)

### **Degrees**

BA Elementary Education, University of South Florida, 1971

M.Ed., Reading, University of Miami, 1973

### **Professional Licensure and Certification**

National Board of Certification in Education, English Language Arts/Early Adolescence

Georgia Department of Education Certification in: Early Childhood Education (P-5), Language Arts and Reading Specialist in Gifted instruction, Middle Grades (4-8) and Grades (P-12), and Teacher Support Specialist (certified to instruct university student teachers)

### **Professional Fellowships and Grants**

1997 - *Summer Teaching Fellowship on the Holocaust and Jewish Resistance to Poland and Israel*, study trip for 26 days to study Holocaust history at Polish Historic Sites and Death Camps, and at Yad Vashem Memorial Museum and School of International Studies, Jerusalem

1998 - *Museum Teacher Fellowship of the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum*, annual research study program including educational outreach community projects

1999 - *National Writing Project Fellowship*, Kennesaw State University, Kennesaw, GA

2000-2001 - *Education for Sustainable Future Grant*, US Dept. of Ed., received technology equipment in classroom and 50 hours of technology training

2001- *Armonk Teacher Fellowship Summer Study in Germany*, sponsored by the Georgia Department of Education, study of political, educational, and historical factors influencing Germany today, returned to Georgia to create Holocaust lessons for the Georgia Department of Education

2010 - *Memorial Library Summer Seminar on Holocaust Education* at Columbia University in New York City, New York,

study and research with historians, survivors, and Holocaust scholars

### **Professional Recognitions**

1999 and 2002 - Honor Teacher Nominee of the Atlanta Journal Constitution, honoring teachers of excellence for producing student achievement

2002 - Martin Luther King, Jr. Nominee for Academic Excellence from Emory University, honoring teachers for excellence in tolerance and diversity instruction in the classroom and social action projects  
\*2004 - *Spirit of Anne Frank Educator Award*, Anne Frank Center USA, New York City, New York  
2005 - Distinguished Educator Award from the Georgia Commission on the Holocaust and the Governor of the Georgia

#### **National and International Participation**

1998, 2000, 2002, 2004, 2006, 2008- National Alumni Conference Teachers' Program on Holocaust and Jewish Resistance in Washington, DC  
1999, 2000, 2001, 2002, 2003 - evaluator of teacher applications for the Museum Teacher Fellowship Program, USHMM  
2006-Southeast Regional Summit, United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, Nashville, TN  
2008-Southeast Regional Summit, United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, Louisville, KY  
2009 - Holocaust Teachers' Summit, sponsored by the Embassy Republic of Poland, Washington DC, a one week program for ten Polish teachers and ten American teachers in Warsaw and Krakow  
2012 - United States Holocaust Memorial Museum Regional Education Corps conferences planning committee  
2013 - Atlanta Regional Summit, United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, Atlanta, GA

#### **Presentations - State Conferences**

1999 and 2000 - Georgia Middle School Association Annual Conferences  
1999 and 2000 - Georgia Council of Teachers of English Annual Conferences  
1997, 1998, 1999, 2000, 2002, and 2003 - Georgia Commission on the Holocaust Summer Teacher Institutes  
2007 and 2008 - Georgia Council of Social Studies Annual Conferences

#### **Presentations - National Conferences**

1999 and 2000 - National Middle School Association Annual Conferences  
2000, 2001, and 2004 -National Council of Teacher of English Annual Conferences  
2002 – National Council of Social Studies Annual Conference  
2007, 2009 - Belfer Next Step National Teachers' Conferences, United States Holocaust Memorial Museum

#### **Organizer and Facilitator – USHMM Full-Day Teacher Workshops**

2000 - Holocaust Conference, Springdale, Arkansas  
2005 - Little Rock School District, Little Rock, AR  
2006 - State of Arkansas Annual Teachers' Conference, Little Rock, AR  
2011 - University of Mississippi, Oxford, MS

#### **Organizer and Facilitator -USHMM Three Day Teacher Programs and Forums**

1999 - Belfer Teacher Fellowship Program, USHMM, Washington, DC.  
2006 - Southern California Teacher Forum  
2006 - University of Arizona Teacher Forum  
2007 - University of Miami Teacher Forum  
2011 - Kennesaw State University Teacher Forum  
2011 - Dallas, Texas Teacher Forum

#### **Docent Trainer and Program Presenter – USHMM Traveling Exhibitions**

2005 - West Baton Rouge, LA “*Oskar Schindler, An Unlikely Hero Traveling Exhibition*”  
2006 - Atlanta, GA, 2007-Miami, FL “*Nazi Persecution of Homosexuals 1933-1945 Traveling Exhibition*”

2006 - Pittsburgh, PA, 2007-Atlanta, GA, 2008-Cleveland, OH, 2008-Detroit, MI, 2009-Oklahoma City, OK,  
2010 - Kansas City, MO, 2010-Skokie, IL - *“Deadly Medicine: Creating the Master Race Traveling Exhibition”*

**Local – School, Social Outreach Programs, Volunteer for Community Projects, University Lectures, Sessions, and Programs**

Mabry Middle School, Cobb County, GA – Reading chairperson, supervisor of university student teachers, numerous school and school district committees, presenter at annual staff development sessions, and member of School Council

University of Alabama, Kennesaw State University, Georgia State University, Valdosta State University  
Local Atlanta synagogues and churches

2000- Created the filmed production for *Teacher to Teacher: Lessons on the Holocaust* sponsored by PBS and the Georgia Commission on the Holocaust

Educational consultant to the William Breman Jewish Heritage Museum, Atlanta, GA, The Georgia Commission on the Holocaust and their annual writing contests, the Kennesaw Mountain Writing Project, and at

Emory University for the website on Holocaust Denial on Trial focusing on the Deborah Lipstadt/David Irving Trial

**Publications and Research**

2002- School of Education, Indiana University, Doctoral Dissertation “Toward a Pedagogy of the Holocaust: Perspectives of Exemplary Teachers”, one of six participants in a qualitative case study of US public schools teaching practices on the Holocaust

2004 - Author of chapter in a college text, “Sharing Journal Reflections of Inspiration and Remembrance” in Teacher’s Writing Groups, Collaborative Inquiry and Reflection for Professional Growth

2010-2011 – University of Michigan, the Educational Testing Service, and RAND Corp. on the Understanding Teaching Quality Study, teacher participant for Understanding Teaching Quality, a research study of use of classroom related measurements to support the development of effective teaching strategies

**Renee Kaplan** is married with two children and one grandson and resides in Atlanta, GA